

JN 9-10

questioned typewriting appearing on Q1 and Q2 was not prepared with the typewriters used in preparing K1 through K3.

By communication dated October 7, 1964, Mr. H. M. RAY, United States Attorney, Northern District of Mississippi, advised that after reviewing the investigative reports in this matter it was his opinion that no further investigation is necessary and that the matter should be closed. Mr. RAY advised that he would not authorize prosecution of the unknown subject even though his identity would be determined.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mason	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Wirt	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

8/29/56

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: SAC, WFO (105-New)

SUBJECT: (ph) BELLE

(CO: SAN FRANCISCO)

[REDACTED]

WFO indices contain no additional information.

SF Div should conduct appropriate investigation in an attempt to further identify the subjs, handling per Section 1, Manual of Instructions. Upon possibly identifying the subjs, blank memos should be furnished to the Bu suitable for dissemination. WFO should be furnished copies of any investigative effort for info. RUC

LAUGHLIN

- 3-Bureau
- 2-San Francisco
- 2-WFO

CBT:lcr

(7)

AIRTEL

Mr. Belmont

JUL 13 1956

SE

EX-120

6-17-56

SP-2 TAP LEBM

6-29-56

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP ON 8/29/56

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mason
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Nease
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

July 5, 1956

Airtel

Transmit the following ~~TELETYPE~~ message to:

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, San Francisco (105-4626)
SUBJECT: CHANGED
MELVIN M. BELLI; [REDACTED]

RE WFO airtel to Bureau, 6/29/56, entitled "MELVIN (PH) BELLI; [REDACTED]"

MELVIN M. BELLI, well known San Francisco attorney with offices at 240 Stockton Street, member of bar since 1933. Married third wife, JOEY TURNER, at San Francisco, 5/3/56.

On 3/9/51, name appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar.

"Daily People's World" (DPW) newspaper, 9/22/49, contains names of number of persons and name MERVIN BELLI, protesting prosecution of 12 Communist leaders.

DPW newspaper, 11/6/41, contains names of number of persons and name MELVIN M. BELLI sending greetings to the people of the Soviet Union on November 7th, the Russians' Independence Day. Blank memo will be submitted.

WHELAN

3 Bureau (AM REG.)
1 WFO (Info.) (AM REG.)
1 San Francisco
SJE:fdl
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-17-80 BY SP4/ML/ESM

RECORDED - 88

SE 4

105-4985-5

JUL 7 1956

EX-109

ESP. SEC.

Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, WFO (105-12134)

DATE: 7/17/56

SUBJECT: MELVIN L. BELLI
 (CO:SF)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Above is being furnished for information of Bureau and San Francisco.

2-Bureau
 1-San Francisco (105-4626) (info) (RM)
 1-WFO
 JON:WJM
 (4)

6-17-80
 CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2TAP/ELM
 REASON-FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
 DATE OF REVIEW 7-17-90

RECORDED - 14

INDEXED - 14

24 JUL 18 1956

EX-120

CONFIDENTIAL

JUL 20 1956

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES
 ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP ON 6-26-80

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: July 10, 1956

FROM : SAC, San Francisco (105-4626)

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI
[REDACTED] b7C

Re WFO airtel to Bureau, 6/29/56 and San Francisco airtel to Bureau, 7/5/56.

Enclosed herewith is a blank memorandum as requested by referenced airtel.

No recommendation is being made to interview MELVIN M. BELLI or his wife when they return from their trip to the USSR.

Encls. 4
2 Bureau (REG.)
1 WFO (Encl. 1) (REG.)
1 San Francisco
SJE:fdh

RECORDED - 47

INDEXED - 47

DATE FORW. 7-10-56

HOW FORW. FILE

SE 47

JUL 17 1956

71 JUL 26 1956

6-17-80

BY SP2 TAP/ET



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
San Francisco, California



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO.

July 10, 1956

MELVIN M. BELLI

The September, 1955 San Francisco Telephone Directory lists a MELVIN M. BELLI, Attorney, with offices at 240 Stockton Street, telephone CA 1-0316, residing at 1228 Montgomery Street, telephone YU 2-2146.

The 1955-1956 San Francisco City Directory lists a MELVIN M. BELLI, occupation lawyer, with offices on the Tenth Floor of 240 Stockton Street, and with a home address of 1228 Montgomery Street, Apartment 8.

The 1956 Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists a MELVIN M. BELLI, born 1907, admitted to the bar in 1933. The directory lists that he is a member of the American Bar Association, attended the University of California, receiving a BA and LL.D. Degree, and having offices at 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco.

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper issue of July 3, 1956

6-17-80
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2TAP/EMW
REASON FOR EXT. 1.2 2,3
DATE OF REVIEW 7-10-90

ENCLOSURE

105-49865-4

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP ON 6-26-80

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Section II, page 1, column 1, reveals Attorney MELVIN BELLI, counsel for Japan Air Lines and recently married, would leave during the week of July 3, 1956, for Europe via Scandinavian Air Lines.

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper issue of May 4, 1956, revealed MELVIN BELLI, attorney and writer, married on May 3, 1956, a former air line hostess, JOEY TURNER, in San Francisco. MELVIN BELLI, according to the article, formerly was married to BETTY ~~BALLANTINE~~ and divorced in 1951, having four children. He married ~~TONY NICHOLS~~, a former stenographer, and they were divorced in March, 1955.

On March 9, 1951, the name of MELVIN BELLI, San Francisco, appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar, P.O. Box 2225, San Francisco 26, and 1614 North Argyle, Los Angeles 28, which appealed to members of the bar to oppose California Senate Bill SB1666, which would impose upon every member of the California Bar and every candidate for admission the requirement that a test or loyalty oath be taken as a condition to practicing law.

The "Daily People's World" newspaper issue of September 22, 1949, contains an article, "Bay Area Notables Protest Communist trial."

"San Francisco, Sept. 21

"A group of prominent Bay Area residents, headed by Attorney VINCENT HALLINAN, protested the prosecution of the 12 Communist leaders to ALBEN BARKLEY during the vice president's visit here.....

"The group wrote BARKLEY that they wanted to see him for the purpose of protesting the actions of the United States government in prosecuting persons for the expressions of opinions."

"We refer particularly to the prosecution of the Communist leaders in New York; and consider the action against them the sad reflection upon the level to which our American concepts of free speech have declined.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"We desire to solicit your aid to combat procedures under which an existing system can employ the coercive forces of the government to preserve itself from criticism or change."

"Members of the group which also sent a strongly worded protest against the trial to Attorney General J. HOWARD MC GRATH, included in addition to HALLINAN: MERVIN BELLI, attorney;....."

The "Daily People's World" is a West Coast Communist newspaper.

The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The "Daily People's World" newspaper issue of November 6, 1941, page 1, columns 2, 3 and 4, contained an article entitled: "Bay Area Notables Greet Soviet People on Nov. 7."

"San Francisco, Nov. 5

"Prominent Northern Californians are sending greeting to the people of the Soviet Union on November 7, the Russians' Independence Day, in support of the Red Army's struggle against Nazi Germany, today announced the Russian-American Society to Aid USSR and Great Britain to Defeat Hitler Fascism.

"Religious leaders, city officials, educators, liberals and progressives were circulated with the following message:

"We Americans admire your courage and determination in your fight against Hitlerism.

"On November 7, your Independence Day, we wish to convey to you our message of greetings and deep conviction that your heroic struggle will end in final victory over the dark forces of fascism."

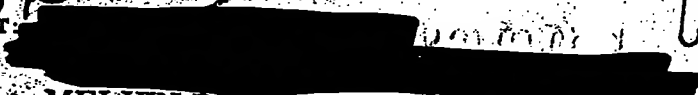
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

DATE: December 14, 1956

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: 

MELVIN BELLI
ATTORNEY, SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

PURPOSE:

To set forth derogatory information concerning captioned individuals in response to your request.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2TAP/Gm
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 12-14-90

DETAILS

There are frequent references in Bufiles to Belli, in his capacity as an attorney for various clients. Belli was the attorney in 1947 for complainants against the Government in connection with injuries arising out of the great explosion on July 17, 1944, at the United States Naval Ammunition Depot, Port Chicago, California. When Special Agents interviewed one of his clients, this client voluntarily mentioned that Belli had asked that he be allowed to file this suit for her and that she had signed a contract that Belli would receive about 30 per cent of any money paid by the Government to her. Later Belli wrote the Department and the Special Agent in Charge, San Francisco, accusing Special Agents of harassing his clients and making insulting and unethical interrogations concerning his practices. SAC Kimball personally contacted Belli and resolved this matter. Belli admitted he was concerned that the FBI might be investigating him since he was at that time being investigated by a private investigator employed by the Maryland Casualty Insurance Company in connection with

ENCLOSURE

cc - Mr. Nichols, with copy of enclosure

Enclosure - Detailed

INDEXED

17 DEC 21 1956

61 JAN 11 1957

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Mohr	
Parsons	
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Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Holloman	
Gandy	

December 14, 1956

Re: Melvin Belli
Attorney
San Francisco, California

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"Religious leaders, city officials, educators, liberals and progressives were circulated with the following message:

"We Americans admire your courage and determination in your fight against Hitlerism.

HEH:jh

ENCLOSURE

(6)

Dec 16 1956

SPITAP 15m

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- Tolson
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"On November 7, your Independence Day, we wish to convey to you our message of greetings and deep conviction that your heroic struggle will end in final victory over the dark forces of fascism."

Signing the message of greetings, with modifications in instances, were: ".....MELVIN M. BELLI, attorney....."

The Russian American Society, Inc., has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (105-49865-4)

The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of March 19, 1947 under the caption "Defendants Linked In Night Club Suit" reports the following information:

"Attorney Melvin Belli and his wife were joined as defendants yesterday in a suit for rescission of a contract for the purchase of Fong's Iroquois Village, Redwood City night spot."

"The action was filed in San Mateo County Superior Court by S. J. De Sanders and Robert Dupret, owners of a Redwood City cigar store. Their complaint asserted they entered into the agreement last December and attempted to withdraw several days later but that Belli refused to return a \$2,000 down payment." (62-82613-18)

The "Daily People's World" newspaper, issue of September 22, 1949, contains an article, "Bay Area Notables Protest Communist trial."

"San Francisco, Sept. 21

"A group of prominent Bay Area residents, headed by Attorney VINCENT HALLINAN, protested the prosecution of the 12 Communist leaders to ALBEN BARKLEY during the vice president's visit here....."

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5 procedures under which an existing system can employ
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24 a former airline hostess, Joey Turner, in San Francisco. Melvin Belli,
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29 1956, Section II, page 1, column 1, reveals Attorney Melvin Belli, counsel
30 for Japan Air Lines and recently married, would leave during the week of
31 July 3, 1956, for Europe via Scandinavian Air Lines. (105-49865-4)

32 The Grievance Committee of the California Bar Association
33 may have additional information concerning Belli.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson *Von*

DATE: December 17, 1956

FROM : L. B. Nichols *Nichols*

SUBJECT:

Last winter, Fulton Lewis, Jr., confused Pearl Wanamaker, State-Director of Education, with a communist. He made a prompt correction and thought that the matter was all over. On Friday he told me that suit had been filed against him in Yakima, Washington, by an attorney named Peter Tonkoff and that suits will also be filed in 50 other cities through a Melvin Belli, who is connected with the National Association of Compensation Attorneys.

Lewis stated that Belli had written a book "Ready for Plaintiff" published by Henry Holt & Company; that the suit has no merit and it looks like this is a sharp trick on the part of lawyers to really ruin him as the expense and harrassment of defending 50 suits will be considerable. He is naturally trying to find out something about the attorneys. I told him that I didn't know whether we had anything, but would check. A summary is enclosed.

LBN:hpf

(4) *per 105-49865-5*Enclosure *dit.*cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-17-80 BY SP2TAM/Em

RECORDED-20

105-49865-6
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61 JAN 4 1957

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

~~SECRET~~

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: September 1, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI
ATTORNEY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Re my memo dated 8-28-59.

The Director has instructed that our San Francisco Office keep alert for any violation of law by Belli in view of his questionable record. Attached is a brief letter to San Francisco with appropriate instructions.

CONSULTING WITH CIA

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter of instructions be sent to the San Francisco Office.

Enclosure sent 9-1-59

1 - Mr. Belmont

HEH:sfc
(6)

6-17-80
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2 TAP/EPH
REASON-FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 9-1-90

REC-11

23 SEP 3 1959

EX-111

CRIME

~~SECRET~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

~~SECRET~~

DATE: August 28, 1959

FROM : M. M. Jones

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI
ATTORNEY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

BACKGROUND: The attached newspaper clipping from "The New York Times" of August 25, 1959, reflects that Attorney Melvin M. Belli, a San Francisco trial lawyer, introduced West Coast mobster Mickey Cohen at a seminar on legal tactics during the current American Bar Association convention. Cohen was introduced as "Professor O'Brien" expert on tax evasion and other criminal cases. The Director noted "What do we know re Belli?"

The current Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists a Melvin M. Belli, born 1907, admitted to the Bar 1933. He is associated with the law firm of Belli, Ashe and Gerry, 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California.

SYNOPSIS

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-1780
REASON FOR EXT. 1-3.1.2-2-3
DATE OF REVIEW 8-28-96

ALSO
ENCLOSURE

~~SECRET~~

DETAILS: The "Daily People's World," communist newspaper, of November 3, 1941, page 1, columns 2, 3 and 4 contained an article entitled "Bay Area

Enclosure

RWK:dj.d/mbb

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Jones to DeLoach Memo

Re: Melvin M. Belli

Notables Greet Soviet People on Nov. 7." This article reflects that a group of prominent Californians, including Belli, sent greetings to the Soviet Union in support of the Red Army's struggle against Nazi Germany. This message was sent by the Russian-American Society, Inc., which has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (105-49865-4)

In 1947, Belli was the attorney for complainants against the Government in connection with injuries arising out of the great explosions on July 17, 1946. In connection with these suits, Belli accused Special Agents of the FBI of harassing his clients and making insulting and unethical interrogations concerning his practices. He later admitted that he was concerned that the FBI might be investigating him since he was being investigated by an insurance company in connection with a \$100,000 suit which a client of his had filed against that company. The insurance company reported him to the California Bar Association for his alleged unethical practices. (62-82613-24)

The "Daily People's World" newspaper, issue of September 22, 1949, contains an article, "Bay Area Notables Protest Communist trial," which reflects that a group of San Franciscans protested the prosecution of twelve communist leaders to Alben Barkley. The group included Belli.

consulting with CIA

Why wasn't this checked out? H

On March 9, 1951, the name of Melvin Belli, San Francisco, appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar, P. O. Box 2225, San Francisco 26, and 1614 North Argyle, Los Angeles 28, which appealed to members of the bar to oppose California Senate Bill SB1666, which would impose upon every member of the

~~SECRET~~

0.
1 Jones to DeLoach Memo
2 Re: Melvin M. Belli
3
4

5 California Bar and every candidate for admission the requirement that a
6 test or loyalty oath be taken as a condition to practicing law.
7

8 The "San Francisco Examiner" of October 9, 1956, reflects
9 that Belli was the attorney for the children of an individual who had
10 deeded a ranch worth \$200,000 to an attorney. The children were alleging
11 that this gift was a hidden donation to the Communist Party and that undue
12 influence had been brought to bear upon their father. (100-388561-A)
13

14
15 Belli was reported to be leaving his wife on July 3, 1956, for
16 Europe [REDACTED] (105-49865-4)
17

18 The Los Angeles Office advised in April, 1959, that Mickey Cohen
19 was believed to have hired Belli as attorney for stripteaser Candy Barr.
20 (63-4296-26-361)
21
22 [REDACTED]
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24 [REDACTED]
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advised that he was associated with Belli. ([REDACTED])

11 In August, 1949, Belli, described by a Los Angeles newspaper
12 as "King of Torts," was described as the attorney for Mickey Cohen in a suit
13 charging Cohen with assault upon Chief Federal Narcotic Agent Howard
14 Chappell. (92-3156-A)
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50994

SAC, San Francisco

September 1, 1959

Director, FBI

MELVIN M. BELLI

ATTORNEY

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

As you may be aware, Melvin M. Belli, a San Francisco trial attorney, introduced west coast mobster Mickey Cohen at a seminar on legal tactics during the American Bar Association convention recently concluded in Miami Beach, Florida. Cohen was introduced as "Professor O'Brien," an expert on tax evasion and other criminal cases. Belli and Cohen have regarded this incident as humorous, but, of course, this type of humor is in extremely poor taste.

Belli has an extremely questionable record, and your office should be alert for any violation of law by Belli coming to your attention.

1 - Mr. Belmont

NOTE: See Jones to DeLoach memo dated 9-1-59 captioned as above.

HEH:sc

(7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-17-80 BY SP7AP/EPm

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COMM-FBI

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Malone *Jan*~~SECRET~~ DATE: 3/9/60FROM : H. L. Edwards *10/1*SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI
ATTORNEY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

By memorandum dated 3/9/60 Edwards to Mr. Malone, I set forth information re the American Bar Association's (ABA) plans to oust Belli from the ABA because of his many cheap unethical practices. A review of Bufiles was made as a result of an article in "The New York Times" of 8-25-59 which indicated that Attorney Melvin M. Belli, a San Francisco trial lawyer, introduced West Coast mobster Mickey Cohen at a seminar on legal tactics during the annual ABA meeting at Miami Beach. Cohen was introduced as "Professor O'Brien," expert on tax evasion and other criminal cases. Of course, Belli's seminar had no connection with the ABA and the ABA protested his cheap trick which led the public to think otherwise. The Director noted, "What do we know re Belli?"

The current Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists a Melvin M. Belli, born 1907, admitted to the Bar 1933. He is associated with the law firm of Belli, Ashe and Gerry, 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California.

Enclosure

1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent direct)

1 - Mr. Belmont (sent direct)

105-49865

KWW:jss (5)

~~SECRET~~

Kash
Parsons
Belmont
Callahan
DeLoach
Malone
McGuire
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

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CONSULTING WITH CIA

6-17-80

EV-130

REC-8

105-49865-9

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-11/1/60

EXEMPT FROM GDS II, 1-2.4.2.2

DATE OF REVIEW 3-9-90

12 MAR 13 1960

TWO

Memorandum to Mr. Mohr
Re: Melvin M. Belli
105-49865

~~SECRET~~

The San Francisco Office was alerted by letter dated 9-1-59 in accordance with the Director's instructions but to date they have not reported any additional information. In view of the contemplated action of the ABA is felt that the San Francisco Office should review its files and public source material for any additional information re Belli. Upon receipt of same, further consideration will be given and appropriate recommendations will be made.

RECOMMENDATION: That the attached letter of instructions be sent to the San Francisco Office.

HLE

SPM

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten initials]

~~SECRET~~

SAC, San Francisco

3/14/60

REC-8

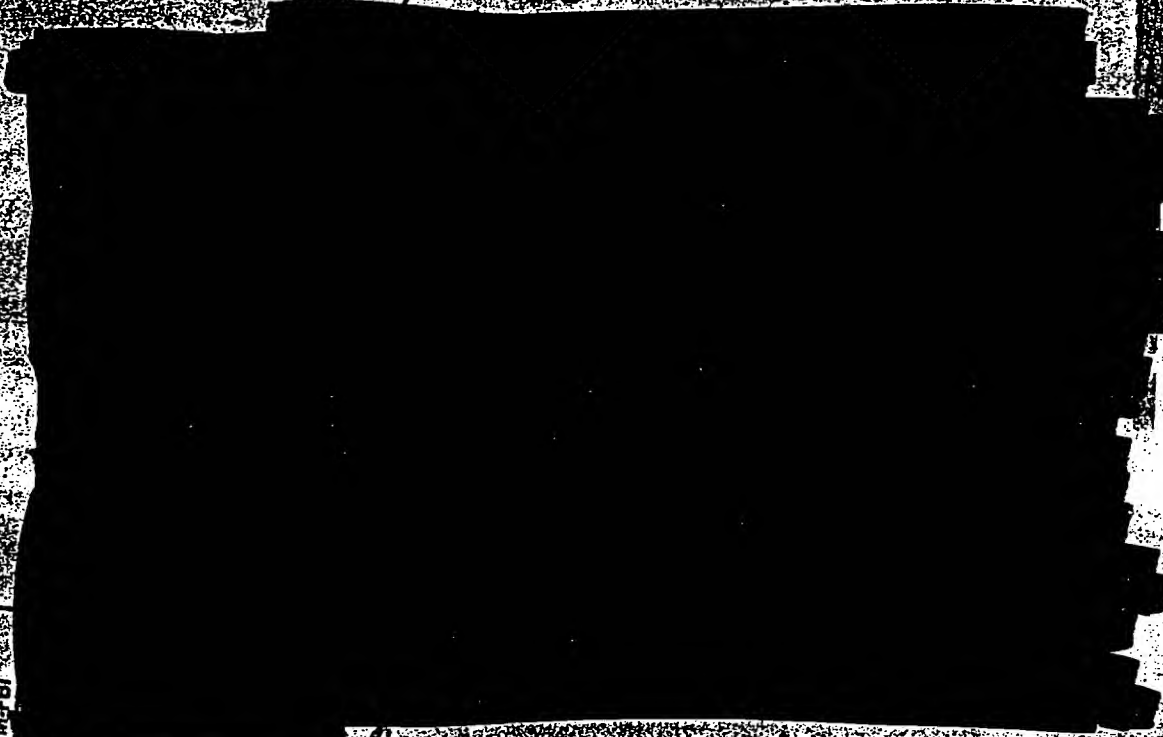
EX-130 Director, FBI

105-49865-9

MELVIN M. BELLI
ATTORNEY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Rebulet 9/1/59.

consulting with CUB



MAILED
MAR 14 1960
COMM-FBI

You are instructed to review your files and other pertinent public source material re above-captioned individual and submit any available data to Bureau by 3/21/60. Insure that any information furnished is precisely identified as public source or otherwise, and where it is public source, furnish complete citation.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent direct)
- 1 - Mr. Belmont (sent direct)

CLASS 6-17-80
REASON FOR REVIEW BY SP2TAP/C...
DATE OF REVIEW 3-14-70

Based on Malone to Mr. Mohr memo, 3/7/60 Re: Melvin M. Belli, Attorney, San Francisco, California. KWW:jss.

KWW:jss

HLER

7M
SX

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 3/18/60

FROM : SAC, San Francisco (105-4626)

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI
ATTORNEY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

ReBulet 3/14/60.

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Malone	
Mr. McGee	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Ingram	
Miss Gandy	

Enclosed, herewith, are the original and three copies of blind memorandum re BELLI.

As set forth in letter to the Bureau from San Francisco Office dated 3/21/47 captioned "SS E. A. BRYAN, SS QUINAULT VICTOR, PORT CHICAGO CASES, ADMIRALTY MATTER," with reference to BELLI charging Bureau Agents with harrassing his clients, it will be noted in that regard, after being interviewed in this matter by Agents of this office and learning that Agents were not investigating him, he stated that he, BELLI, would withdraw his objections. It was during that interview of BELLI as set forth in that letter dated 3/21/47 that BELLI mentioned that he had received information that he was being investigated by a private investigator who was in the employ of the Maryland Casualty Insurance Company in connection with BELLI's ethics in handling a suit for a client against the Maryland Casualty Insurance Company. As file information does not reflect that it was substantiated, this matter is not being set forth in the blind memo.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(2) Bureau (Encl.-4)
1 San Francisco
JBD:ekk
(3)

REC-53

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2TDP/CEW
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 6-17-90

50 APR 5 1960

ENCLOSURE

105-49865-10

CONSULTING with CIA

[REDACTED]

The newspaper items mentioned in the memorandum were obtained through the library of the "San Francisco Examiner," a newspaper published at San Francisco. The items were clippings filed in envelopes; where the clipping was from the "San Francisco Examiner" it only bore a date stamp of the date of issue from which clipped; where the item had been clipped from another newspaper, it had been stamped with the name of the newspaper and the date of issue only.

Information with reference to the articles from "Life," "Time" and the "Saturday Evening Post," national magazines, were secured from the San Francisco City Library.

March 18, 1960

MRS Melvin M. Belli
Attorney
San Francisco, California

Joey Belli (NEC TURNER)

Joy Belli

The 1959 San Francisco City Directory reflects that Melvin M. (Joy T.) Belli resides at 1228 Montgomery, Apartment 8.

The 1953 San Francisco City Directory listed Belli as a lawyer with office at 240 Stockton Street and his wife was listed as Joy T. Belli and his residence was given as 1228 Montgomery, Apartment 8. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

The current (September, 1959) San Francisco Telephone Directory lists Melvin M. Belli of the law firm of Belli, Ashe and Gerry as having offices at 722 Montgomery Street, San Francisco.

The 1960 Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists Melvin M. Belli, attorney, San Francisco, California, born 1907, admitted to Bar 1933, member of the American Bar Association and having graduated from the University of California with B.A. and LL.B. degrees.

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper, a newspaper published daily at San Francisco, issue of May 4, 1956, revealed Melvin Belli, attorney and writer, married on May 3, 1956, a former air-line hostess, Joey Turner, in San Francisco. Melvin Belli, according to the article, formerly was married to Betty Ballantine and divorced in 1951, having four children. He married Toni Nichols, a former stenographer, and they were divorced in March, 1955. Belli

The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of May 1, 1959, had an item with reference to separate maintenance suits filed by Joy Belli against Melvin Belli and Melvin Belli against his wife, Joy Belli.

The "San Francisco Examiner" had a copy of a press release in its files dated January 9, 1959, at San Francisco issued by "Belli Seminar Foundation, 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California," for release January 12, 1959. According to the release, as part of a nation-wide series that has been widely acclaimed, the San Francisco Lawyers Club would sponsor a Belli Seminar Foundation lecture by internationally famed

CC TO: Chicago Division

REC 4-13-62

AME

EX

ENCLOSURE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

San Francisco attorney Melvin M. Belli on January 17th at the St. Francis Hotel (San Francisco). The release stated Mr. Belli would discuss trial and substantive law, criminal and civil law, trial and tort trends, procedures, voir dire, and opening statements through final argument and appeal. According to the release, Belli would also discuss modern damages, medical problems and would show autopsy film. The release described "The Belli Seminar Foundation" as a charitable organization for the perpetuity of postgraduate legal education lectures and that Belli lectures were free to law students and medical students, doctors, judges, and professors. The release states further as follows:

"Belli, called 'The King of Torts,' was recently elected chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Academy of Trial lawyers at a meeting held at Coronado. He is past Dean of that organization and past President of the National Association of Claimants Compensation Attorneys.

"Particularly noted for being a pioneer in the use of demonstrative evidence, Belli is equally regarded as an author of numerous books, which includes 'Modern Trials,' 'Ready for the Plaintiff,' 'Modern Damages,' 'The Adequate Award' and 'Trial and Tort Trends.' His latest book, 'Life and Law in Japan,' deals with the Girard case which developed international legal and political interests."

"Time" magazine (published by Time, Inc., 540 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois) issue of January 26, 1959, page 23, has an article about Melvin M. Belli under the caption "The Law" and subtitled "Plaintiff's Counsel." The article described Belli as a recognized, if not the revered, leader in the phenomenal field of U. S. law - personal injury. It is set forth that Belli's most noteworthy contribution to tort trials is the use of "demonstrative evidence." It set forth that Belli would take his skeleton named "Elmer" into the court room and show the jury by expert's testimony exactly where the plaintiff broke a bone. A photograph of Belli with the skeleton appeared with the article.

The "Time" article mentioned some of Belli's cases. Among those included were one for victims of the defective polio vaccine distributed by California Cutter Laboratories in 1955 and one for relatives of victims of the nation's worst air crash - the collision of two airplanes over Grand Canyon on June 30, 1956. It also mentioned that Belli had pending in Louisiana a case against two cigarette manufacturers and that it had been filed on behalf of a woman whose husband died of lung cancer. The last subheading of the article is captioned,

1 "Shyster or Savant." The article mentioned under this heading,
2 that most legal observers agree that for many years personal
3 injuries were not adequately compensated in the courts. Many
4 of these same observers now believe that Belli has led the
5 trend too far in the opposite direction and, moreover, they
6 shrink from Belli's techniques. The article quoted Belli as
7 stating, "I am regarded as either shyster or savant. There
8 is no middle road for me."

9 Belli was described in the "Time" article as fifty-one years
10 of age, thrice married, twice divorced.

11 The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of April 1, 1959, had
12 an item listing Melvin Belli as representing Mae West in a
13 \$50,000 suit against a local night club (San Francisco) performer
14 who billed herself as "the one and only 'Diamond Lil'."

15 The "Saturday Evening Post" (published by the Curtis Publi-
16 cation Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) issue of April 11,
17 1959, contains an article captioned "Medicine's Legal Nightmare"
18 by Milton Silverman, beginning on Page 13. In the first part of
19 that article is set forth information about Melvin M. Belli,
20 41-year-old San Francisco attorney, nationally known for his suit
21 against doctors for medical malpractice.

22 [REDACTED] Las Vegas, Nevada
23 stated on April 23, 1959, that Mickey Cohen and two other
24 individuals arrived in Las Vegas on April 23, 1959, from Los
25 Angeles, California, by automobile. He stated that they were
26 accompanied by an individual giving the name of "Mel" Belli,
27 an attorney from San Francisco. They appeared at the Clark
28 County Sheriff's Office where Cohen was required to register
29 as an ex-felon. Mr. Belli stated at that time Cohen was in Las
30 Vegas transacting some legal business and also to discuss a
31 golf tournament to be held at Wilbur Clark's Desert Inn hotel
32 golf course.

33 The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of April 28, 1959, sets
34 forth, under the caption "Belli Plans Plea for Stripper in
35 Dope Case," information that San Francisco attorney Melvin
36 Belli announced yesterday he would champion the cause of Las
37 Vegas stripper Candy Barr, a comely girl friend of gambler
38 Mickey Cohen, convicted of possession of marijuana. The item
39 stated that Belli, reached by telephone in Las Vegas, said,
40 "This is a gross miscarriage of justice. I have definitely
41 taken up her case and we're going to the U. S. Supreme Court
42 with it."

1 The article stated that Cohen said he made the arrangements
2 for Belli to defend Miss Barr. Cohen was quoted, "I made con-
3 nections for Candy. I am not paying the bill. But I okayed
4 the credit on it. She'll pay him when she's able."

5 According to the article, Belli insisted, "This has nothing
6 to do with Cohen. I agreed to take her case after talking
7 with her Friday and Saturday." The news item further set forth
8 that Belli said, "She is caught right in the middle of a
9 political deal. She doesn't use narcotics or sell it and she
10 was deliberately framed by narcotics agents." According to
11 a news article, a jury in Dallas, Texas, convicted Miss Barr
12 of possession of marijuana last-year. Her fifteen-year prison
13 sentence was upheld in January by the Texas Court of Criminal
14 Appeals.

15 The "San Francisco Chronicle," a daily newspaper published
16 at San Francisco, issue of July 6, 1959, captioned "Belli
17 Asked Limit for Lawyers Fees." It stated that Melvin Belli,
18 San Francisco attorney, had recommended to Governor Edmund
19 G. Brown (Governor of California) for regulation of lawyers'
20 fees in personal injury cases rather than creation of a
21 California Automobile Accident Commission. Belli, a specialist
22 in personal injury cases, was quoted, "Lawyers charge too much.
23 Fees in personal injury cases such as automobile accidents
24 should not go over forty per cent. I charge one-third. Some
25 charge as much as fifty per cent."

26 "San Francisco Examiner" issue of August 24, 1959, contained
27 an article captioned "Mickey Slated for Belli Seminar." The
28 article is dated Miami, August 23rd, and stated that Mickey
29 Cohen arrived in Miami on August 23rd and, after questioning by
30 Miami detectives, he was permitted to go to a Miami Beach hotel
31 where he was scheduled to address a trial seminar. The seminar
32 was to be put on by attorney Melvin Belli, San Francisco trial
33 lawyer, who defended Cohen last week on a charge of assaulting
34 the chief of the Federal Narcotics Bureau in Los Angeles. The
35 news item stated the seminar held in conjunction with the
36 University of Miami Law School attracted attorneys
37 across the nation. A seminar spokesman said the meeting was
38 not connected with the giant American Bar Association convention
39 starting there on Monday.

40 In the "San Francisco Examiner" issue of August 25, 1959,
41 it was set forth in an article that Melvin Belli, top trial
42 lawyer from San Francisco, had introduced Mickey Cohen as
43 Professor O'Brien at the American Bar Association convention
44 in Miami Beach. The article stated that Cohen, as Profes-
45 sor O'Brien, lectured to the unsuspecting lawyers as a
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1 "professor" on income tax. The article stated the Association
2 did not think it was funny and an Association spokesman said
3 that it was obviously an attempt to use the American Bar Association
4 for a private promotion, according to the news item. The
5 news article quoted Belli as follows: "If they can't appreciate
6 that part of the program, then the whole Bar Association has
7 lost its sense of humor." Belli was further quoted that he
8 was sorry Cohen had appeared before the convention.

9 The "San Francisco Examiner" on August 25, 1957, had an
10 article captioned "Belli Sees Fair Trial for Girard." The item
11 had a dateline of Tokyo, August 24th, and by-line of "By Melv
12 Belli, Special to the Examiner." The article was about the
13 trial of the people of Japan against Specialist, Third Class,
14 William S. Girard.

15 The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of August 26, 1957, had
16 an article by Belli with reference to the Girard trial. This
17 item has a dateline of Maebashi, Japan, August 26th.

18 Also, the "San Francisco Examiner" of September 10, 1957,
19 had an article by Belli datelined Tokyo, September 9th, with
20 reference to Japan's civil suit customs.

21 The "San Francisco Examiner" issues of October 20, 21, 22,
22 27, 23 and 29, 1959, contained items mentioning Melvin Belli
23 as attorney for Beverly Adland, teen-aged protege of the late
24 Errol Flynn, movie actor who died at Vancouver, British Columbia,
25 in October, 1959.

26 The "San Francisco Examiner" of November 17, 1957, had an
27 article that a Yuba City (California) peach farmer bequeathed
28 a \$300,000 estate to three San Francisco lawyers with a provision
29 that it be used to "educate people in the process of democracy."
30 The article set forth that the estate was bequeathed to attorneys
31 George Andersen, Norman Leonard and Richard Gladstein who had
32 often defended members of the Communist Party. According to the
33 article, attorney Melvin Belli declared he would contest the will
34 on behalf of the dead man's widow, son and daughter.

35 The "San Francisco Examiner" of December 8, 1957, datelined
36 Marysville (California) contained an article that attorney
37 Melvin Belli had filed action for the son and daughter of a
38 person by the name of Long. The news item set forth that according
39 to the action Andersen induced the father "through fraud and
40 under influence" to will all but \$13,500 of the estate to Andersen
41 and his law partners, Norman Leonard and Richard Gladstein.

1 The "San Francisco Chronicle" issue of October 9, 1956,
2 had an item that attorney Melvin M. Belli was charged in the
3 Municipal Court (San Francisco) with failing to pay \$176.00
4 in overtime wages to two secretaries. The "San Francisco
5 Chronicle" of October 20, 1956, had an article on the same
6 matter. This article stated that a couple of former secretaries
7 had hauled Melvin Belli into court on charges he failed to
8 pay their overtime for the last two weeks they worked for him.
9 The charge was described as a misdemeanor.

10 San Francisco, California, Police Department arrest records
11 cards Nos. A28055 and A28056 reflect that Melvin Belli of
12 1228 Montgomery Street was arrested on the morning of September
13 19, 1956, on warrants issued on complaints of two individuals
14 charging violation of 216(a) of the Labor Code. He was re-
15 leased immediately on \$100.00 bond in each of the two cases.
16 The records of Municipal Court, Department No. 11, San Francisco,
17 reflects that Belli was acquitted of these charges in each case
18 for violation of 216(a) of the Labor Code on December 12, 1956.
19 The action numbers in the Municipal Court are 9327 and 9329.

20 The "San Francisco Chronicle" issue of March 15, 1955, has
21 an item captioned "Belli Joins Battle to Save Chessman's New
22 Manuscript." The article read that attorney Melvin Belli
23 catapulted himself into the Caryl Chessman case yesterday with
24 charges that confiscation of the condemned convict-author's
25 latest book is an attempt at thought control worse than the
26 treatment of prisoners in the Dark Ages. The article stated
27 that Belli, well-known trial lawyer had offered his services
28 without fee to Chessman's Sacramento (California) counsel,
29 Rosalie Asher, who accepted his association in the case. It
30 was further set forth that attorney Asher was scheduled to
31 appear before Judge Michael J. Roche of the Federal District
32 Court at San Francisco to argue an injunction to prevent the
33 destruction of Chessman's newest manuscript. It further
34 mentioned that this was another phase of Chessman's six-year
35 battle to escape San Quentin's gas chamber.

36 "San Francisco Examiner" of May 10, 1955, in an item
37 captioned "Chessman's Book Suit" set forth that attorney
38 Melvin Belli, on behalf of Miss Asher, had filed suit in
39 Marin County (California) Superior Court, asking the court
40 to order Warden Harley O. Teets, Director of Correction
41 (California) Richard McGee and others to release Chessman's
42 latest book, "Trial and Ordeal," to attorney Asher.

1 "Life" magazine (published by Time, Inc., 540 North Michigan
2 Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois) in an issue of October 18, 1954
3 beginning on Page 71, contains an article by Robert Wallace
4 captioned "The King of Torts." The subheading reads "Melvin
5 Belli's court room props and his pyrotechnical oratory have
6 reaped big awards for his clients and himself while revolutionizing
7 the practice of personal injury law."

8 On March 9, 1951, the name of Melvin Belli, San
9 Francisco, appeared along with other names on the letterhead
10 of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar, P.O. Box 2225,
11 San Francisco 26, and 1614 North Argyle, Los Angeles 28, which
12 appealed to members of the Bar to oppose California Senate
13 Bill SB 1666, which would impose upon every member of the Cal
14 fornia Bar and every candidate for admission the Requirement
15 that a test or loyalty oath be taken as a condition to practicing
16 law.

17 The "Daily People's World" newspaper issue of September 2,
18 1949, contains an article, "Bay Area Notables Protest Communist
19 trial."

20 "San Francisco, Sept. 21

21 *CASE*
22 "A group of prominent Bay Area residents, headed
23 by Attorney Vincent Mallinan, protested the prosecution
24 of the 12 Communist leaders to Alben Barkley during
25 the vice president's visit here.....

26 "The group wrote Barkley that they wanted to see
27 him 'for the purpose of protesting the actions of the
28 United States government in prosecuting persons for the
29 expressions of opinions.

30 "'We refer particularly to the prosecution of the
31 Communist leaders in New York, and consider the action
32 against them the sad reflection upon the level to which
33 our American concepts of free speech have declined.

34 "'We desire to solicit your aid to combat procedures
35 under which an existing system can employ the coercive
36 forces of the government to preserve itself from criticism
37 or change.'

38 "Members of the group which also sent a strongly
39 worded protest against the trial to Attorney General J.
40 Howard McGrath, included in addition to Mallinan:
41 Mervin Belli, attorney;.....

42 The "Peoples World, formerly the "Daily People's World"
43 is a West Coast Communist newspaper.

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1 The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the
2 Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order
3 10450.

4 The "Daily People's World" newspaper issue of November 6,
5 1941, page 1, columns 2, 3 and 4, contained an article entitled
6 "Bay Area Notables Greet Soviet People on Nov. 7."

7 "San Francisco, Nov. 5

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9 "Prominent Northern Californians are sending greet-
10 ings to the people of the Soviet Union on November 7, the
11 Russians' Independence Day, in support of the Red Army's
12 struggle against Nazi Germany, today announced the Russian
13 American Society to Aid USSR and Great Britain to Defeat
14 Hitler Fascism.

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16 "Religious leaders, city officials, educators,
17 liberals and progressives were circulated with the follow-
18 ing message:

19
20 "We Americans admire your courage and determination
21 in your fight against Hitlerism.

22
23 "On November 7, your Independence Day, we wish to
24 convey to you our message of greetings and deep conviction
25 that your heroic struggle will end in final victory over
26 the dark forces of fascism."

27
28 Signing the message of greetings, with modifications in
29 some instances, were: ".....Melvin M. Belli, attorney...."

30
31 The Russian American Society, Inc., has been designated by
32 the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive
33 Order 10450.

34
35 The "San Francisco Chronicle" issue of October 9, 1939,
36 contained an article captioned "Belli named to U. S. Bar Rights
37 Committee." In this article it is set forth that Melvin Belli,
38 San Francisco attorney, had been appointed to the Committee on
39 the Bill of Rights of the Junior Bar Conference of the American
40 Bar Association. The Committee, according to the article,
41 would concern itself with a comparative survey of the Bill
42 of Rights as appears in the basic law of the states.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
 Belmont _____
 DeLoach _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 Felt _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tamm _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

TO : Mr. Malone

DATE: 8/9/60

FROM : H. L. Edwards

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI
ATTORNEY AT LAW
SAN FRANCISCO

[REDACTED] of the Training Section received in the mail a circular indicating that Melvin M. Belli of San Francisco is scheduling the 10th Annual Belli Seminar at Washington, D. C., Sunday, August 28, 1960, from 8:30 a. m. to 11:00 p. m. at the Presidential Arms. This is the day before the opening of the American Bar Association's 83rd Annual Meeting. A copy of this circular is attached and indicates that this seminar will emphasize medical specialties not heretofore discussed at prior forensic medicine and medico-legal seminars. On the law side, the seminar will consider the various agencies and courts and specialized practices that every lawyer should know about.

[REDACTED] Belli is, of course, well known as being a notorious publicity seeker.

[REDACTED] It will be recalled that at the Annual ABA Meeting, 1959, at Miami Beach, Belli embarrassed the ABA by bringing Mickey Cohen and setting up a seminar to run concurrently with the ABA Meeting and some of the newspapers erroneously reported that Belli was a part of the ABA Convention. Of course the ABA promptly indicated he had no connection whatsoever.

[REDACTED] has told me in the past that he has been trying in every way possible to "make a case" which would justify ousting Belli from the ABA for unethical practices although Belli is apparently smart enough to stay within the ethical rules.

On 8/4/60 while spending some time in Washington with [REDACTED] I informed him of the proposed Belli Seminar. This was complete news to [REDACTED] but he was very anxious to get it because he said he will now alert the Public Relations Staff at the ABA Center so that when they have their preliminary briefing of the press prior to the forthcoming Annual Meeting, they will be able to clarify in advance the fact that Belli has no connection in his seminar with the ABA Meeting.

ACTION:

EX 109

REC-68

Information.

15 AUG 11 1960

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

62 AUG 23 1960

DATE 6-17-80 BY SP-5/PRM

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